

SPENDING REDUCTIONS

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(Mrs. BLACKBURN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, if House liberals had their way, last year we would have spent billions more. I want every taxpayer across America to know that it is this Republican leadership and Republican majority that is talking about spending cuts, spending less, not the Democrats. It is this Republican majority that is talking about continued tax relief for hardworking American families, not the Democrats.

You are going to hear the Democrats say, well, those Republicans, they didn't invite us to come participate in talking about spending cuts, to talk about reducing Federal spending. Mr. Speaker, I hope they will consider this the invitation: Come join us. We would love to have all your input and ideas.

So from this point on, they can stop talking about how we need to spend more and help us find ways to be better stewards and spend less. Let us be frank. The Democrat solution, raising taxes, is not a solution. This government does not have a revenue problem. This government has a spending problem. Mr. Speaker, we invite them to join us.

NEED FOR A CHANGE IN WASHINGTON (CULTURE OF CORRUPTION CANNOT CONTINUE)

(Ms. WATSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, the American people want change here in Washington, DC. Over the last couple of months, they have seen the headlines of scandal in the ranks of the House and Senate Republican leadership. They have seen the continuing scandal at the White House that should lead to the firing of Karl Rove and Scooter Libby. They have seen that the President's cronies are now entrenched in important government agencies and some of them are as unprepared for their jobs as Michael Brown was at FEMA.

The American people want to know when Republicans here in Washington are finally going to stop doing the bidding of the wealthiest elite and start focusing on issues more important to them. They are concerned about an economy where their paychecks are not rising as high or as fast as the cost of living. They are also wondering how they are going to continue to afford their health care premiums, gas for their cars, and heat for their homes in the winter.

They look to Washington and correctly see that House Republicans refuse to even consider their concerns. Republicans are simply too busy helping their friends. It is time for a change all right, and Democrats are ready to lead by providing creative solutions to our Nation's needs.

STEALING THE FEDERAL WAY

(Mr. POE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, tattoos, lingerie, Ozzie Osbourne concert tickets, gambling, cruises, exotic dance clubs, prostitutes, and new sports cars. Members may ask what this list is. No, it is not Larry Flynt's Christmas wish list. These are examples of purchases made on Federal credit cards by Federal employees for which American taxpayers picked up the bill; they always do.

Today I have introduced the Government Credit Card Sunshine Act. This act is simple. It requires every government credit card bill to be posted on the government Inspector General's Web site within 15 days of its use. It also states that Federal employees whose credit card abuse is more than \$500 shall face immediate dismissal, be forced to repay the bill, and sometimes return the items. This serious scandal is stealing and is unacceptable behavior. We are now going to hold Federal employees accountable for ripping off America. So no more abusing the Federal credit card at the taxpayers' expense; otherwise, pack your toothbrush, you are out of here.

H.R. 3966, SLICE ACT

(Mr. UDALL of Colorado asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, we need to change our budget policies. We should use the better, the fairer, and the more bipartisan approach to spending cuts that would come from passing H.R. 3966. That is a bill I introduced with the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT), the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE), and the gentleman from Colorado (Mrs. MUSGRAVE).

It is called the Stimulating Leadership and Cutting Expenditures Act, or SLICE for short. SLICE would require an up-or-down vote on each specific cut the President proposes in the recently passed transportation bill and current appropriations bills. It is a workable and constitutional alternative to the line item veto designed to enable Presidential leadership and require congressional accountability.

Mr. Speaker, before we cut critical health care, education and other programs that help working Americans, let us work in a bipartisan way to consider other cuts. Let us pass H.R. 3966 and slice the budget the right way.

INCREASED FUNDING FOR LIHEAP NEEDED

(Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to a problem that many Americans are facing as we approach winter: the cost of heating their homes.

The U.S. Energy Information Administration recently projected that the cost of heating a home this winter, regardless of the type of fuel, will increase dramatically from last year. In order to counteract this dramatic spike in energy costs, we need to increase funding for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, or LIHEAP. It is a tremendously successful program that enables States to provide low-income families with energy assistance.

In my State of New Hampshire, LIHEAP funding helps people afford to heat their homes and not have to make the difficult choices of paying their rent, of buying food and medications, or keeping their homes warm.

In order to simply meet last year's purchasing power, we must increase LIHEAP funding by \$1.276 billion. This is an issue that crosses State and party lines and one that needs to be addressed immediately.

Mr. Speaker, let us act today to increase this funding before Hurricane Katrina claims more victims this winter.

HELPING MOTHERS SUFFERING FROM POSTPARTUM DEPRESSION

(Mr. RUSH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, this morning we learned that a 23-year-old mother threw her three children off a pier in San Francisco killing them all. Apparently she heard voices that told her to commit this unthinkable act.

Mr. Speaker, we do not know yet whether this woman suffered from a most severe form of postpartum disorder known as postpartum psychosis. We do know that postpartum depression and psychosis can emerge even a year after a child's birth.

That is why for the last three Congresses I have introduced the Melanie Blocker Stokes Postpartum Depression Research and Care Act, H.R. 1940. My bill would direct funds to researching this misunderstood disorder, and it would also provide grants for services and care for mothers who suffer from postpartum depression.

I urge all of my colleagues in the House to cosponsor this important bill. What happened in San Francisco happens way too often in this Nation, and we must do what we can to prevent similar tragedies in the future. The mothers of America desperately need this Congress to recognize this deadly malady and pass H.R. 1940.

JUSTICE FOR SADDAM HUSSEIN

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1